

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 23 2006

**Restriction Requirement**

Claims 1-17 have been placed under a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 in the above-identified Office Action.

**SUMMARY OF THE EXAMINER'S POSITION**

Specifically, in item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner identified the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-8, directed to a front body cover and fender assembly, classified in class 296, subclass 193.09

Group II, claims 9-15, directed to a vehicle cover having a closure permitting access to vehicle maintenance portions, classified in class 180, subclass 69.24

Group III, claims 16 and 17, directed to a radiator structure and mounting, classified in class 180, subclass 68.4.

Inventions I, II, and III are independent as claimed and have different modes of operation, different functions, and/or different effects (MPEP §806.04, MPEP §808.01). The claims of Group I are directed toward a vehicle cover, body assembly, and lighting mount, the claims of Group II are directed to an access opening and cover panel for allowing access to portions of a vehicle requiring maintenance, the claims of Group III are directed to the mounting of a radiator, each group of which supports independent patentability.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and further have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

**DISCUSSION**

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement in the above-identified Office Action, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof. Applicant respectfully suggests that the claims are drawn to different aspects of a single inventive concept, and should not be subject to restriction. For instance, all components from Group I are present in the limitations of Group II, however Group II further includes a vehicle cover having a closure permitting access to

vehicle maintenance portions, which is the same structure as the center cover piece in the limitations within Group I. Still further, the radiator structure and mounting referred to in Group I are again similar structures to the center cover piece that is within the limitations of Group I.

Even if the Examiner remains convinced that the claims are not all drawn to a single inventive concept, applicant respectfully suggests that all of the pending claims are drawn to closely associated inventions.

Moreover, applicant respectfully points out that MPEP section 803 states that

**"if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."**

Applicant respectfully suggests that the examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement, and examine the species identified as Groups I, II, and III together.

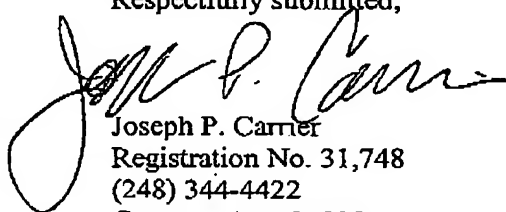
Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

However, notwithstanding the above, and in order to comply with Patent Office requirements, applicant elects, with traverse, the group identified by the Examiner as Invention I.

It is applicant's understanding and belief that each of Claims 1-8 are drawn to the elected invention.

Respectfully submitted,


CARRIER, BLACKMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
24101 Novi Road, Suite 100  
Novi, Michigan 48375  
February 23, 2006

  
Joseph P. Carrier  
Registration No. 31,748  
(248) 344-4422  
Customer No. 21828

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Group Art

Unit 3618 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, at the number (571) 273-8300 on February 23, 2006.

  
Anne M. Carrier